

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 113

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT AS THE NEXT QUALIFIED
ELECTOR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF NEW MEXICO STATE
UNIVERSITY A MEMBER OF AN INDIAN NATION, TRIBE OR PUEBLO
LOCATED IN NEW MEXICO AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE GOVERNOR FOR
APPOINTING A MEMBER OF AN INDIAN NATION TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the board of regents of the university of New
Mexico has seven members, six of whom are qualified electors of
the state and one of whom is a student; and

WHEREAS, one of the qualified elector members of the board
of regents of the university of New Mexico is a member of the
Navajo Nation and is the second member of an Indian nation,
tribe or pueblo to serve on the university of New Mexico board
of regents in recent years; and

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1 WHEREAS, the board of regents of New Mexico state
2 university has five members, four of whom are qualified
3 electors of the state and one of whom is a student; and

4 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico and New Mexico state
5 university have the highest enrollment of Native Americans of
6 all the state four-year post-secondary educational
7 institutions; and

8 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico and New Mexico state
9 university have high attrition rates for Native American
10 students, higher than for any other group of students; and

11 WHEREAS, education has been found to be one of the most
12 significant factors in determining the economic success and
13 quality of life of a person as an adult; and

14 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state of New
15 Mexico and the Indian nations, tribes and pueblos in New Mexico
16 to attempt to do whatever is necessary to help Native American
17 students complete their college educations; and

18 WHEREAS, policy for the university of New Mexico and New
19 Mexico state university is set by the board of regents of those
20 institutions, and the will to identify the reasons for Native
21 American student attrition at those schools and then to solve
22 the problems and to emphasize retention of Native American
23 students will only occur when the boards of regents of those
24 schools recognize the loss of Native American students as a
25 challenge that must be addressed; and

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1 WHEREAS, having a representative of an Indian nation,
2 tribe or pueblo on the board of regents provides a voice that
3 can bring focus to the issue of Native American student
4 attrition rates at the university of New Mexico and New Mexico
5 state university and thereby elevate the awareness of the need
6 to support Native American student education and retention
7 programs for Native American students;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to make his
10 next qualified elector appointment to the board of regents of
11 New Mexico state university a member of an Indian nation, tribe
12 or pueblo located in New Mexico; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be acknowledged
14 for his recent appointment of a member of the Navajo Nation to
15 the board of regents of the university of New Mexico and that
16 he be encouraged to continue to appoint members of Indian
17 nations, tribes and pueblos to that board to maintain a tribal
18 voice in creation of policy for the university of New Mexico;
19 and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be encouraged to
21 confer with the governments of the tribes in the state to
22 identify nominees for positions on boards and commissions so
23 that the members appointed will truly represent the voices of
24 the Indian nations, tribes and pueblos in the state; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the people appointed be

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1 concerned about the number of Native American students who
2 begin college but fail to complete college and be willing to
3 advocate for programs to increase the retention of Native
4 American students and the success of Native American students
5 who enter the university of New Mexico and New Mexico state
6 university; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the governor of New Mexico, the governors and
9 councils of the nineteen Indian pueblos located in New Mexico,
10 the president of the Navajo Nation, the president of the
11 Jicarilla Apache Nation, the president of the Mescalero Apache
12 Tribe and the boards of regents of the university of New Mexico
13 and New Mexico state university.

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